



# PALS PRESS

Newsletter of Calgary's Pet Access League Society "Pets Helping People"

## WELCOME LITTLE ONE

WINTER 2004

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### Dates to Remember:

- \* Bingos: Jan 22, 2005  
Mar 23, 2005
- \* Casino - Jan 27, 28 2005
- \* PALS Picnic June 19 2005

My opinion: 20<sup>th</sup> century architect, Mies van der Rohe, whose philosophy was "less is more", obviously never owned a puppy.

How could a home be seduced to basic elements and simplicity? Since minimalism is a move away from materialism, when I aspired to welcoming home my new "furchild", I found myself in awe of this theory. How would I retrofit my home to be puppy friendly?

Functionality and simplicity should be the prime considerations; however, I love details and yes, ornamentation. Should her fur coat match the golden oak hardwood flooring or contrast and create tension? Some experts say I should never own a dog and real wood flooring – gasp! I expect a \$10 splurge on nail clippers would be a prudent decision at this point since the hardwood is not going to morph into laminate in my lifetime.

Should I change my fabrics to nubly textures and muted colors? The breeder promised she would not shed her coat, but I'll play it safe, and co-ordinate her with my recliner and re-upholster. Periodically, I give in to my "eye for economy" and opt for leather. Should it be a thick buffalo hide or can I keep my buttery Natuzzi? Fortunately, the rich caramel coloring will disguise any bile she might regurgitate as a result of her incessant licking.

That brings us to the area rug --- to be or not to be? Yes, it stays. After all, she'll need a solid jumping-off-point to launch herself onto the leather sofa. Should she sleep in her kennel at night or on the bed with us? What about the down duvet and all the insulating space between the feathers? If she crushes it, am I doomed to accept polyester fiberfill and an electric blanket for ever more?

I had a laundry tub installed on an elevated platform so my chiropractic adjustments can remain in "maintenance mode" when we attend to her personal hygiene regimen. One last thought on the control issue: a flexi-lead to eliminate the jerky stops and starts from every fragrant post, or, the discipline of a 3 foot leash to synchronize our movements? The question is, should the collar and lead be in harmony with the backdoor mat? ( She will spend a few moments there prior to each outing.) Hmmmm...

I summoned the mental discipline to prepare to harmonize my new environment. Creating her new home was a journey, not unlike a work of art, as it was borne from powerful emotions of love and fear. Honestly, mostly because when harmony is not achieved, boredom and chaos is the result. Today, my furry friend proudly stands guard in our temple of doggie luxury where at the end of the day, "more is more".



## ART MARKET - A HUGE SUCCESS

Back in June my request went out for volunteers to help and with great anticipation I waited for your response.

I called on the most valuable people on earth YOU the Volunteer. Your response was incredible and because of your commitment to PALS and to Art Market, it was a great success! We made a few changes, no PALS Booth selling various pet related products, shorter shift times for Booth Relief volunteers and most of all less volunteers required. I nervously waited to see how things would work out and I must say that THANKS TO YOU everything went very smoothly.

With approximately 70 Booth Relief volunteers, we managed to provide over 100 Exhibitors with at least six 15 fifteen minute breaks throughout the weekend. As in the past each and every one of the Exhibitors was very appreciative of our service. After speaking with a few of the Exhibitors, they mentioned to me that Art Market is the only show that offers this service. So I pass on my utmost gratitude to each of you for helping out and volunteering your time. Marlene, the organizer of Art Market even asked me if we would like a coat rack in the volunteer room next year so I guess they want us back.

As for our hard working Pets, that brought their owners down to Art Market, they did an outstanding job promoting our program. Looney Bin contributions where up \$800.00 from last year. WAY TO GO PALS PETS AND OWNERS!!! THANK YOU SO MUCH.

Overall we managed to raise over \$6,300.00 with less volunteer time and commitment. I had a wonderful time meeting all of you and I look forward to next year. I only hope that each of your feel the same way.

Again, THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH FOR MAKING ART MARKET SUCH A SUCCESS. I could not have done it without YOU!!!!

Susan Douglas

Art Market Volunteer Coordinator

I would like to extend a huge thank you to Susan for all of the work she put into making the Art Market such a huge success and I look forward to working with her again next year. Sandra



**Moko wishes all of you the very best of the season...peace & biscuits to all.**

Picture provided by Moko's owner, Kathy Morgan

### **NEW BROCHURE DEBUT**

It's here and it's sharply dressed. Our new promotional brochure is hot off the press. A HUGE THANK YOU to Foster Communications for donating their services to design the entire project. In addition, EOG Resources donated the printing cost for "LOVE ON A LEASH". We also wish to thank Angie Young, a dedicated PALS volunteer, for her expertise with pulling the whole thing together. Your copy is enclosed with this newsletter. Of course, you can have more ... just call and we'll get them right out to you. Just think, tack one to the staff room bulletin board at work. Better yet, a little sticky gum on the water cooler. Now that's a conversation starter and advertising to boot.

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### **HAND AND LEASH GO HAND IN HAND**

Of course you dress your PALS animal for the visit. The blue bandana is tied smartly around the neck and the PALS leash is firmly attached to the collar. Or is it? Did you know that PALS visits at only two facilities "off leash"? These are very special visits that have been approved by the Board of Directors. Other than these two places, all our animals MUST use their PALS blue leash. Of course, it's the liability issues we have touched on before --- more importantly, let us not forget, it's for the safety of our beloved pets...free running pets can scoop up all sorts of goodies such as stray and possibly poisonous medications. When PALS gets a call from a facility because a patient was terrified of an animal loose in the hall, we sit up and take action. Please do not put the PALS program, your pet or the residents at risk by bending the rules.

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### **ATTENTION: TEAM LEADERS**

Hey guys, New Year's resolutions are in the air. How about resolving to get your visit reports in quarterly. Your roster shows a lot about your team. We all know how hard it is to get into the PALS program and keep good volunteers. If you don't report the team attendance, we won't know when you need more people. Recently, we had one unfortunate incident where we called a volunteer to ask for up-to-date vaccination records only to find out the dog had passed away over a year ago. If we're in the loop as to the status of your volunteers, we won't embarrass ourselves and, more importantly, cause undue awkwardness. It's simple really.... just fax it to us, or mail it if you like. Better yet, email or a quick phone call will do. The answering machine is available 24/7. Just give us the team name, the date of the visit and the name of the person (or pet) who attended.

*That's it. It's easy and quick.*

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### **A SERIOUS NOTE ON THE NOROVIRUS**

Yes, it's the season for involuntary illness to loom its ugly head.

Noro is a gastro-intestinal virus (nasty from both ends) that spreads very easily through any casual contact. Although it's not deadly, volunteers could take it from person to person within the facility where they visit, or even home to their families. Most facilities will quarantine and cancel the visits if they have an outbreak, so this is just a heads-up to check with your Team Leader if in doubt.

You know the drill; wash thy hands often **with soap and water**.

DO NOT rely on alcohol hand sanitizers. They are OK for many bacteria, but are NOT effective against noro.

We need our soldiers strong and full of life to continue our good work into the season of giving.

*Take care everyone!*

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## HERE YE, HERE YE! THE BELL TOLLS FOR THEE

The next Bingo dates are January 22 and March 23. In January, it's on a Saturday.

We need 47 wide-eyed volunteers for the early shift and 20 hardy souls for the later shift. In March, we need 40 individuals to help us out.

Please give Audrey a call at 248-6422 if you can spare a couple of hours to help out.

## MEMBERSHIP TIME AGAIN

Please take a moment to complete and return the enclosed membership form.

Don't feel like mailing off a cheque just give Sandra a call at 250-7257 and pay with your visa or Master Card.

If you have already paid, thank you.

## CASINO DATE – January 27 and 28 – fast approaching.

Do you ever wake up in the middle of the night, gasping for air and grabbing at handfuls of money? Perhaps it's a sign that you are about to win the lottery? Or maybe, you just need the opportunity to spend some time in the count room. It's even more fun now that the new bills are in circulation. They are so pretty and much easier to bundle (I mean play with). This could be an invaluable experience for your inner child to sneak out under the cloak of darkness and get in touch with how it would feel.

If you're up to the challenge, come spend a little time checking out the casino. We could really use your help – it's a Thursday and Friday this year.

## MORE PUBLICITY FOR PALS

Here's your chance to broaden your literary horizons.

PALS was interviewed for the "Citizen Pet". You can pick up your copy at Pet Planet in March 2005. It's all good --- any promotion to get the word out about the good work we do.

## PALS CELEBRATES ITS 20th ANNIVERSARY IN 2005

We are still looking for volunteers to help plan the PALS 20th Anniversary picnic on June 19th 2005.

Please call/email the office if you can lend a hand.



Charitable Registration # 10781 1879 RR0001

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